addition to the 74 bulk drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

This Policy was submitted before the Cebinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. GOM has held three meetings so far on 10-4-2007, 12-9-2007 and 30-1-2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not distinguish between life saving and other drugs. There are not specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drug can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug in general is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

Direct Fertilizer Subsidy to farmers

820. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to provide direct fertilizer subsidy to farmers;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented this in all over the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted to looked into sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues has looked into various issues relating to fertilizer sector including the option of direct fertilizer subsidy to farmers. The same has not been recommended by the GOM in its final recommendations.

Production cost of fertilizers

†821. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production cost is different in different chemical fertilizers producing industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, what has been the highest and lowest production cost of each chemical fertilizer being produced in the country during the year 2007-08 (April to December);

(c) which industrial units have highest and lowest production cost; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the reasons for so much difference in highest and lowest production cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The cost of production of urea is different across various units in the country with the highest cost of production for the urea being Rs. 22899 PMT for M/s. Madras Fertilizers limited and lowest being Rs. 5054 PMT for M/s. National Fertilizers Limited-Vijaipur-1. The main reason for difference in the cost of production of these units is due to the wide difference in the price of feedstock being used by these units for production of urea. The cost of production also varies as some of the units are old with negligible depreciation costs, whereas others are comparatively new units with significant depreciation cost.

The fertilizers units producing DAP in the country have been divided into two groups based on the process through which DAP is peoduced in these units. The cost of production of Group-I units (producing DAP based on imported rock phosphate) has been Rs. 19786 PMT in 2007-08 (April to September) whereas the cost of production of Group-II units (producing DAP from imported phosphoric acid) has been Rs. 17767 PMT.

With regard to the complex fertilizers, every unit produces varying grades of complex fertilizers and the cost of production of same depends upon feedstock/raw material being used by the units. The average cost of production of various grades of complex fertilizers in 2007-08 (April to September) is given as below:—

Grades of complex fertilizers	Cost (PMT)
16:20:00	12212
20:20:00	13284
23:23:00(gas)	14807
28:28:00(urea)	17344
10:26:26	17499
12:32:16	17372
14:28:14	16531
14:35:14	18207
15:15:15(gas)	13896
17:17:17	15330
19:19:19	16765

Self sufficiency in fertilizer production

822. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the different varieties of fertilizers being produced in the country and the details of the plants alongwith their locations producing a kind of fertilizers;